

**STATEMENT OF  
REP. EDWARD J. MARKEY (D-MA)  
HOUSE FLOOR DEBATE ON H.R. 4503, THE  
ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2004  
TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2003**

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this bill.

What this House is doing today reminds me of that old Bill Murray movie, “Groundhog Day” in which Murray’s TV weatherman is doomed to awaken each morning in Punxsutawny, Pennsylvania and live through the same day again and again and again. Today, the House is voting once again on the same old Republican energy bill that was approved by this House last November. While this reintroduced bill has been given a new number (H.R. 4503), it is identical to the energy bill conference report that passed the House last fall (H.R. 6) and has been stalled in the Senate ever since due to bipartisan opposition to its expensive and wasteful corporate giveaways and numerous environmental rollbacks.

But in the movie version of Groundhog Day, Bill Murray finally learned that if he wanted to have a good day, he needed to change his behavior. In the Republican Majority’s version of Groundhog Day, they seem to think that if they just do the exact same thing they did last fall, somehow they will end up getting a different result.

So as we re-enact the Republican Energy Policy Groundhog Day bill, let's consider one fundamental question: will this bill do anything meaningful to help consumers who are facing record gas prices at the pump?

The answer is NO. According to the Department of Energy's own Energy Information Administration, "the impact of the CEB [Conference Energy Bill] provisions analyzed in this report on total primary energy consumption is small." This is because EIA finds that the energy bill would result in a MAXIMUM annual difference in energy consumption (compared to current policies) of no more than 0.3%. EIA therefore concludes that "On a fuel specific basis, changes to production, consumption, imports, and prices are negligible."

In fact, the EIA actually found that gasoline prices will INCREASE following enactment of the energy bill conference report. The EIA projects a slight "increase of 0.3 cents per gallon in the average gasoline price and an increase of 0.4 cents per gallon in the average RFG [reformulated gasoline] price compared to the Reference Case" by 2010. By 2015, however, the price increases resulting from the bill accelerate, with "an increase of 3.0 cents per gallon in the average gasoline price and 8.1 cents per gallon in the average RFG price, relative to the Reference Case."

This bill has:

- a negligible impact on energy production;
- a negligible impact on energy consumption;
- a negligible impact on energy imports;
- It will increase gas prices by 3 cents a gallon for regular gasoline;
- It will increase gas prices by 8 cents a gallon for reformulated gas;
- It provides \$23.5 billion in special interest tax breaks largely tilted for the big oil, gas, and utilities industries, as well as over \$120 billion worth of “royalty holidays” and other subsidies for wealthy oil, gas and other energy producers who are already making record profits;
- It weakens the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and other environmental and public lands laws; and,
- It repeals the Public Utility Holding Company Act, one of the key laws protecting utility investors and consumers from Enron-like frauds.

This is a terrible bill. It was a terrible bill last fall, and it remains a terrible bill today. Nothing has changed.

In fact, the only thing new about this bill is that we now know from the Energy Information Administration how little this bill really does to address oil consumption and production, and how much more it is going to cost consumers at the pump.

Why are we doing going through this exercise today? This is a political exercise, pure and simple. Here’s what one

energy lobbyist had to say about the Republican Energy Week: “We’re not paying a whole lot of heed to this. We’re not sure this means much.”

This legislation doesn’t mean much. The Republican leadership is wasting this House’s time by taking up a bill that we’ve already passed, a bill that we all know is going absolutely nowhere, and a bill that not even the energy lobbyists are paying any attention to because they know it is not serious.

And if you don’t think your constituents should have to pay 3 to 8 cents a gallon in even higher gas prices for an energy bill that does virtually nothing to reduce energy consumption or address America’s reliance on imported oil, then please join me in voting to defeat this ill-conceived legislation.